

West Newton Borough  
 Regular Meeting  
 July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The regular monthly voting meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, in Council Chambers, 112 South Water Street. Council President Jason Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members Jason Cooper, Gary Johnson, Tony Berarducci, Randy Shincovich, and Terri Eckels were called present during roll call. Mayor Mary Popovich, Solicitor Sam Dalfonso, Engineer Dalton Mack and Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola were also present. Council member Dan Palfey attended the meeting at 6:42PM. Council member Dan Roebuck was not present.

**Motion 07-01** made by Councilman Johnson to amend the agenda to camera the gym and fix any issues up to \$12,000. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Delegates:

Dr. William Hopé was present to speak to council regarding his garbage not being picked up for several weeks. Dr. Hope stated the Secretary has reached to the garbage company after each complaint. Dr. Hope also presented the bill of the pond dock restoration to Council to ask for Council to pay the remaining balance over the \$10,000 that was awarded to Rotary from a grant. Council President Cooper stated in May of 2023, council motioned to pay an additional and up to \$2,280 for dock restorations, this amount will come out of ARPA fundings allocated for Goehring park and pond.

Christopher Hasbrouck was present to speak to council regarding the camper fire located at the garage on Blackburn Street. Mr. Hasbrouck brought to Councils attention of the increased traffic. With this being said and the fire occurring, Mr. Hasbrouck requested Council to be actionable about a wire that crosses over Blackburn Street of which has burned and is ¼ of the thickness and serves as a hazard. Council stated West Pen Power will be contacted. Fire Chief Sanner was present and stated West Penn Power was present after the fire and deenergized all power to this building.

Justin Lowanse was present to request from Council if they would hang the festival signs up again the beginning of August, Mr. Lowanse will bring them to the office.

Erika Aaron was present to file a complaint about 156 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. This complaint referred to an over grown trees. Solicitor Dalfonso stated to Ms. Aaron the borough will cut vacant lots for high grass and weeds, the only time the municipality will come in and cut trees would be if this tree is in a public right a way or hindering the public roadway this would unfortunately be Ms. Aaron's responsibility to contact the property owner to cut this tree down. Solicitor Dalfonso stated she could send a letter to the property owner letting them know she is going to cut the over hanging tree limbs from her property, but this would be her responsibility.

**Motion 07-02** made by Councilman Johnson to accept the previous minutes. Second by Shincovich. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

#### Engineers report

Engineer Mack presented the Engineers report – Mr. Mack reported communication with Secretary to work with insurance company to get this pump repaired if the insurance company could add this to prior claim.

**Motion 07-03** made by Councilman Berarducci to reject the proposal from Pumpman Pittsburgh for the replacement of Lift Station wet well lighting. Second made by Johnson. Motion made by unanimous vote.

**Motion 07-04** made by Councilman Berarducci to reject the contracted bid for Pa Small Water CCTV grant, Contract No 24-S1 Phase 1, including add. Alternates depending on the quantities used in the first part of project. Second by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Secretary Pergola proposed two finance options at a 6.59% - 5year term with monthly payments or 2 year term with quarterly payments. If the borough went with a 5 year term they would have the option to look for other grant funding.

Engineer Mack stated Aerzen rental savings are to be the amounts we would save with energy bills. Mr. Mack stated they have proof of our monthly payments to come off the final bill, will be working with Aerzen to clarify.

**Motion 07-05** made by Councilman Berarducci to table the proposal from Pumpman for installation of new airlines and blowers at the Sewage Treatment Plant pending a Special Meeting. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Councilman Johnson referenced back to the gymnasium leak.

**Motion 07-06** made by Councilman Berarducci to dye test and camera 110 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street again. Pending issues found with lines near the gymnasium the Borough would spend up to \$12,000 of allocated ARPA funds. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Supervisors Report** – Supervisor Shincovich reported of repairs of asphalt and equipment within the Borough. Solicitor Dalfonso stated being apart of the COGG would help with obtaining CBDG grant funding for sidewalk restorations or street projects.

Engineer Mack stated there are Multimoto grants available the Borough could look into for a combination project. Liquid fuels money could be used for this 30% match if a match is still recommended for municipalities.

**Solicitors Report** – Solicitor Dalfonso reported on Ordinances and vacation of alleys. Mr. Dalfonso requested an executive session for litigation matters on properties.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning Report** – Nothing at this time due to the Holiday

**Mayors Report/Police Report** – No Police report at this time due to the Holiday.

**Motion 07-07** made by Councilman Berarducci to rededicate the little league field at Goehring Park to be named as the Alex Landsperger Field where a plaque will be hung by the Family. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Emergency Management:** Paul Williams was present this evening to report updates. Fire Chief Sanner to give latest updates on West Newton Volunteer Fire Company. EMA and Fire Chief were both present to also give condolences to late Tom Penney who served the West Newton Borough Community for several years.

**Bills – Motion 07-08** was made by Councilman Johnson to pay all unpaid bills. Second by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Treasurers Report** – Treasurer's report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer

**Tax Collectors Report** – Tax Collectors Report was not presented due to the holiday.

**Committee Reports:**

- ✚ **Finance & Budget:** Nothing to report at this time.
- ✚ **Streets:** **Motion 07-09** made by Councilman Palfey to place a handicap placard and painted blue line on the curb at 173 N Second Street. Second made by Shincovich. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Sewage:** Covered in Engineers report.
- ✚ **Recreation:** A sign will be placed at the pavilions for public to rent for use. Power and water will be shut off, can be turned on for rentals only.
- ✚ **Insurance:** **Motion 07-10** made by Councilman Johnson to accept Varin Slavin's Insurance quote at the amount of \$11,884 for coverage of West Newton Volunteer Fire Company. Second made by Eckels. Motion made by unanimous vote.
- ✚ **Personnel:** Nothing to report at this time.
- ✚ **Public Safety:** Nothing to report at this time.
- ✚ **Properties & Code Enforcement:** Nothing to report at this time.

↓ **Bridge River & Trail:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Communications:**

- Motion 07-11** made by Councilman Palfey to approve up to \$2,000 to purchase tents, tables and chairs for CROWN to host the festival. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted unanimous vote.
- Motion 07-12** made by Councilman Palfey to proceed with codification (eCode360) process for ordinances. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted unanimous vote.
- Motion 07-13** made Councilman Johnson to adopt Ordinance 2024-4, standards and regulations of burning within the Borough. Second made by Shincovich. Motion adopted unanimous vote.
- Motion 07-14** made by Councilman Palfey to adopt Ordinance 2024-5 for Vacating Valley View Street paper alley. Second made by Eckels. Motion made by unanimous vote.
- Motion 07-15** made by Councilman Palfey to advertise to adopt an Ordinance for the Vacation of Cooper alley. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Councilman Requests:**

- Motion 07-16** made by Councilman Johnson to work with Wes banco through community conversations. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.
- Motion 07-17** made by Councilman Johnson to approve a 1-year subscription in the amount of \$375 for padowntown.org as a tool for the Planning Commission. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Adjournment**

- Motion 07-18** made by Councilman Palfey to adjourn the regular meeting into an executive session. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

West Newton Borough  
Special Meeting  
July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Special meeting of West Newton Borough Council was held on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Council Chambers, 112 South Water Street. Council President Jason Cooper called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. Council members Tony Berarducci, Dan Palfey, Randy Shincovich, and Terri Eckels, called present during roll call. Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Pergola and Engineer Dalton Mack were also present, while Solicitor Sam Dalfonso was present via phone. The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss and take action on sewer plant issues, appropriation of ARPA funding, and financing options.

This meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council discussed current sewage plant issues with Engineer Mack, determining financial options and reappropriations of ARPA funding to lessen the amount of initial loan amount. Engineer Mack discussed with Council due to miscommunication with the salesman from Aerzen, Aerzen is working with Mack and the Borough to make things right by submitting a reimbursement for energy savings through their company. Engineer Mack stated this could be up to \$12,000 in savings the Borough could receive once the blowers are installed in 6-8 weeks. The Borough will use this reimbursement amount to be applied as direct payment to the loan of this project.

**Motion 07-01** made by Councilman Berarducci to approve quote for the purchase Aerzen blowers in the amount of \$112,980 for the sewage plant. Second made by Eckels. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Motion 07-02** made by Councilman Palfey adopted Resolution 2024-7, reappropriating ARPA funds to be used for sewage plant repairs totaling an amount of \$11,336.52. Second made by Shincovich. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Motion 07-03** made by Councilman Palfey adopted Resolution 2024-8, authorizing the Borough Council to proceed with obtaining financing complying with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act for the purchase of equipment and services to repair sewage plant issues in the amount of \$143,663.48. Second made by Berarducci. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

**Motion 07-04** made by Councilwoman Eckels to adjourn this special meeting at 4:26PM. Second made by Palfey. Motion adopted by unanimous vote.

Ashley Pergola Secretary/Treasurer

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